

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Throughout the planning process, the planning team gathered public input on issues, proposed actions, and alternatives. The scoping process included interagency meetings, public workshops, newsletters, Advisory Commission meetings and the development of a homepage on the internet. These were used to identify the issues, alternatives, and impact topics to be considered for planning and to keep the public informed and involved throughout the planning process.

PUBLIC NOTICES AND WORKSHOPS

On August 31, 1995, a public notice describing the purpose of the planning effort was sent to the public, media, agencies, and other organizations on the Bureau of Land Management California Desert District's mailing list (about 6,000 names). The schedule for the first round of public meetings was included in the notice. On September 5, 1995, a notice of intent announcing the beginning of the planning process and EIS was published in the *Federal Register*.

Public workshops were held from September 21 through 27, 1995 at 10 locations throughout the planning area and in nearby areas where users live. These workshops were held in Pasadena, San Bernardino, Barstow, Baker, Needles, Ridgecrest, Independence, Lone Pine, and Furnace Creek, CA, and in Las Vegas, NV. About 250 people attended the workshops. These workshops were used to identify issues and concerns that the team should address in preparing separate agency management plans for the area. The team and other agency staff divided into two groups to cover the 10 locations in one week. Detailed notes taken during the workshops were summarized and placed in a notebook for the team's reference.

In late February 1997, a second notice was sent out to inform the public that there would be a second round of workshops in April focusing on conceptual alternatives. A press release was mailed to local media in and near the planning area. Some local newspapers and radio stations informed the public about the workshops. The schedule for these workshops was included in this notice and on the NEMO homepage.

Ten public workshops were held from April 14 through 24, 1997 at Las Vegas, Nevada, Needles, Furnace Creek, Bishop, Lone Pine, Barstow, Pasadena, San Bernardino, Baker, and Ridgecrest, California. Each workshop began with a 20-minute presentation by NEMO team leader Dennis Schramm about the planning effort and the conceptual alternatives that were arrayed in the newsletter. After the presentation the team would set up three stations for natural resources, cultural resources, land use, and visitor experience. At these stations, the team gathered comments and alternatives and wrote them down on the flipcharts. About 330 people attended the workshops.

NEWSLETTERS AND HOMEPAGE

The first newsletter was sent out in February 1996 to about 6,000 names on the Bureau of Land Management mailing list for the California Desert. It included a summary of planning issues identified at the public meetings and statements of purpose and significance for Death Valley National Park, Mojave National Preserve, and BLM-managed lands within the planning area.

The original mailing list was replaced with a planning specific mailing list developed from meeting participants, cooperating agencies, advisory commission members and letters received from the public. A second newsletter was sent in March 1997 to about 500 names on the NEMO planning mailing list. It contained a planning update, the schedule of the workshops, general descriptions of conceptual alternatives, and an outline of issues for which alternatives could be developed. The newsletter was also posted on the homepage. Both newsletters include a one-page mailback for receiving comments.

In February 1997 a homepage for the three California desert planning efforts went online on the BLM California server. It contained detailed information about each planning effort, background information about the Mojave Desert, and the desert tortoise, pertinent legislation and maps and photographs. In April 1998 the NEMO homepage was moved to the NPS server so that the planning team would have direct access. The link to this homepage is found in Death Valley National Park's homepage (www.nps.gov/deva).

A third newsletter was sent out in April 1998 to the NEMO mailing list (which had grown to about 900 names) to update readers on the NEMO planning effort. The newsletter explained that three separate draft environmental impact statements for each area (Mojave National Preserve, Death Valley National Park, and the BLM public lands within NEMO) would be produced instead of one comprehensive draft environmental impact statement. A revised planning schedule and comment form for receiving the documents were also provided in the newsletter.

AGENCY CONSULTATION

An interagency meeting was held on August 23, 1995, to discuss the issues to be addressed in this planning effort. The meeting was attended by 43 staff from the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The California state historic preservation officer (SHPO) was formally notified by letter in April 1996 of the planning effort. A response letter offering suggestions was received from the state historic preservation officer in May 1996. A planning team member met briefly with the state historic preservation officer in June 1996 and offered a briefing on the planning effort. No date for the briefing was confirmed.

Following the public scoping workshops in April 1997, another two-day interagency meeting was held in Barstow, California to discuss the alternatives and comments heard at the workshops. Twenty-eight staff members from the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California State Parks, and San Bernardino County attended the two-day meeting. Comments were gathered on the first day and alternatives were developed on the second day.

An interagency meeting was held on April 10, 1997 to discuss listed and sensitive species in the planning area. It was decided that the team would plan for listed and sensitive species based on habitat types. A follow-up meeting was held on June 11, 1997, to continue the discussion. Habitat types were ranked according to priority, and tasks were assigned to staff members to gather information needed to map the habitats with the highest priority.

On November 13, 1997, the planning team met with park staff to discuss alternatives to be included in the internal agency review draft.

Copies of the first internal agency combined draft environmental impact statement were provided to the Environmental Protection Agency in San Francisco. Copies of the separate draft plans for each park unit were offered for review, but the Environmental Protection Agency declined to review these documents, opting instead to review and comment on the public drafts when they are released.

NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

On March 7, 1996, Team Leader Dennis Schramm, Death Valley National Park Superintendent Dick Martin, and Cultural Resources Specialist Linda Greene met with representatives of the Timbisha Shoshone tribe at Death Valley. A follow up meeting with tribal leaders held at their offices in Death Valley on April 28, 1997. On April 23, 1996, Dennis Schramm and Archeologist Rolla Queen met with the Chairmen and tribal members of the Chemehuevi tribe at their reservation on the Colorado River. A follow up meeting was held with the Chemehuevi on May 19, 1997 at their office. An initial meeting with the Ft. Mohave Indian Tribe Chairperson also was held on May 19, 1997 at their offices in Needles. The purpose of these meetings was to initiate government-to-government relationships for the planning effort. The tribes were briefed on the scope and status of the planning effort and discussed issues.

INTERTRIBAL MEETING

An intertribal meeting involving the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Timbisha Shoshone Indian Tribe, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians was held on July 11, 1997 at the Fort Mohave Reservation's Avi Hotel and Casino in the Laughlin, NV area. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Native American issues and alternatives. Invitation letters were sent to 13 tribal offices and to NPS and BLM staff. Seven representatives for the tribes and nine agency staff attended the meeting. Mr. William "Bill" Mungary (an intertribal leader) facilitated the meeting.

The meeting began with an introduction and greeting by Mr. Mungary followed by an overview of the planning effort by Team Leader Dennis Schramm. Then at their request, the tribes met for an hour and a half without the presence of the agencies. This was then followed by a three-hour discussion between the tribes and agencies which was focused on protection of cultural sites and access to these sites. The tribal representatives also addressed how they would want further consultation to be handled.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION

Death Valley's Advisory Commission was appointed in September 1997. A series of meetings were held in Death Valley on November 20, 1997, January 8 and 9, 1998, February 11 and 12, 1998, and April 22 and 23, 1998. During these meetings, the Commission members were briefed on the planning process and schedule, major issues, park operations and took a field trip through Saline Valley to see some of the issues firsthand.

LIST OF INVITED COOPERATING AGENCIES

FEDERAL:

Bureau of Indian Affairs*
National Training Center - Ft. Irwin*
China Lake Naval Air Weapons Center
Army Corp of Engineers
Environmental Protection Agency
Inyo National Forest

STATE:

California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Parks and Recreation*
California Department of Transportation (Districts 8 & 9)
State Lands Commission
California State Historic Preservation Office*
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office

LOCAL:

County of San Bernardino, CA*
County of Inyo, CA*
County of Mono, CA
Clark County, NV*
Nye County, NV
Esmeralda County, NV

NATIVE AMERICAN:

Timbisha Shoshone Indian Tribe*
Fort Mohave Indian Tribe
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

*provided planning contact

LIST OF AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO WHOM COPIES OF THE DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT / GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN HAVE BEEN SENT

Federal Agencies

Department of Agriculture

Natural Resource Conservation Service, Mojave District

Department of the Army

Corp of Engineers, Sacramento District

Corp of Engineers, Los Angeles District

Department of Defense

China Lake Naval Weapons Station

National Training Center, Ft. Irwin

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Sacramento

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern California Agency, Riverside

Bureau of Land Management, Desert District, Riverside

Bureau of Land Management, State Office, Sacramento

Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Field Office

Bureau of Land Management, Needles Field Office

Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office

Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office

Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office, Ventura

National Park Service, Mojave National Preserve

National Park Service, Regional Office, San Francisco

National Park Service, Denver Service Center

National Park Service, Joshua Tree National Park

National Park Service, Lake Mead National Recreation Area

National Park Service, Death Valley National Park

National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, Colorado Plateau

U.S. Geological Survey, Canyon Crest Field Station

Department of Natural Resources and Federal Facilities

Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

Forest Service, Inyo National Forest

Federal Advisory Groups

Death Valley National Park Advisory Commission

Elected Officials

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, California
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, California
U.S. Senator Richard Bryan, Nevada
U.S. Senator Harry Reid, Nevada
U.S. Representative Jerry Lewis, California
U.S. Representative John Ensign, Nevada
U.S. Representative Jim Gibbons, Nevada
Governor Pete Wilson, California

State Agencies

California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Department of Transportation, District IX
California State Historic Preservation Officer
California State Lands Commission
Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Humboldt
Nevada Division of Minerals

Local Agencies

Death Valley Chamber of Commerce
Kern County Board of Supervisors
Inyo County Planning Department
Inyo County Board of Supervisors
Nye County Board of Commissioners
Mono County Planning Department
Baker Community Service District
Death Valley Natural History Association
Supervisor Kathy Davis, San Bernardino County
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Clark County, Nevada, Department of Comprehensive Planning
Clark County Department of Parks and Recreation
Esmeralda County Board of Commissioners
City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering
Big Pine Chamber of Commerce

Organizations

The Conservation Fund
National Parks and Conservation Association
The Wilderness Society
Saline Valley Preservation Association
Eastern Sierra Audubon Society
Natural Resources Defense Council
California Deserts Tourism Association
Animal Protection Institute
Blue Ribbon Coalition
Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter
Wild Burro Rescue
Death Valley 49'ers
Hacienda de los Melagros
California Off-Road Vehicle Association
California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
High Desert Multi-Use Coalition
Climbers Access Fund
People for the West
Bureau of Land Management Lands Foundation
Desert Survivors
Desert Botanical Garden
Restore: The North Woods

Tribal Governments

Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council
Colorado River Tribe

Libraries

California State University, Long Beach Main Library
Balboa Library
Angeles Mesa Library
San Bernardino County Library, Administration
San Bernardino County Library, Barstow Branch
San Bernardino County Library, Needles Branch
San Bernardino County Library, Victorville Branch
Seattle Public Library
Henderson Public Library
Napa City County Library
Shasta County Library
Pasadena Public Library Pasadena Public Library

San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center
Sacramento Central Library
Inyo County Free Library, Bishop Branch Library
Ridgecrest Library
UC Irvine, Main Library
Inyo County Free Library, Lone Pine Branch Library
Pahrump Library
Beatty Library
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, James R. Dickinson Library
Mohave County Library
Las Vegas Public Library
Sunrise Public Library
Boulder City Library
Calif. State Univ., Northridge, Oviatt Library
Clark County Library
Amargosa Public Library